
Crop and Weather Information for the Month of January 2005

Western

Grays Harbor: Although January started out with typical winter weather it did not last long. Unseasonably warm temperatures resulted in most agricultural producers predicting an early spring. Daffodil cut-flower harvest started about two weeks earlier than normal on February 1. Livestock owners were able to decrease supplemental feeding due to rapidly growing pastures. Greenhouse tomato growers had transplants that were ready for greenhouse planting. Home gardeners had to temporarily put aside pruning chores in order to mow their lawns.

Jefferson: Dry sunny weather was experienced without many drainage or flooding problems. There was increased interest in purchasing agricultural land as the local farmers market saw 40 percent growth in sales during 2004.

Skagit: Though precipitation in December was close to normal, heavy rainfall in November left fields saturated, with standing water perched on many acres throughout the county. The temperature dropped into the 20's for the second time this season. Field operations were curtailed as usual for January.

Skamania: No snow pack below 1000 meters, temperatures were abnormally warm and dry.

Snohomish/ King: The month started out with normal conditions for the season. The majority of the month was much warmer and drier than normal. Precipitation for the month of January was less than half of normal. Some plants were coming out of dormancy earlier than normal. The grass was even showing signs of new growth as if it were spring.

Snohomish/ King (2nd Report): January was mostly mild with only a week of consistently freezing temperatures. One good snowfall took place. Some localized flooding occurred when it melted. No fieldwork was being done. Pastures and fields were mostly soggy.

Thurston: Although the month started out with a typical winter weather forecast of snow, it appeared we may be headed for an early spring. Heavy rainfall during the middle of month resulted in major rivers almost reaching flood stage. Unseasonably warm weather the latter part of the month found agricultural producers doing outside chores. With temperatures reaching the low 60's on numerous days, it almost seemed as though spring had indeed arrived. Pastures were beginning to green up and grow and native plants were starting to leaf out. In many cases, home gardeners had given their lawns the first mowing of the season.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Temperatures were cold early in the month, however not low enough to cause any damage to fruit trees. Winter wheat crop had lost most of its snow cover. Snow fall and precipitation were at record lows for the month.

Grant: A considerable amount of precipitation in the form of snow was received. Orchard pruning was underway. Calving continued.

Grant (2nd Report): No field activities were underway. Producers worked on equipment in preparation for 2005 planting. Growers applied dormant alfalfa herbicides.

Okanogan/Ferry: The latter part of January was unseasonably warm. Precipitation was lower than normal. Snow pack was considerably less than normal.

Yakima: Average temperatures in January varied from 13 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with 1.1 inches of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

Eastern

Adams: Soil moisture was severely low and higher than normal precipitation is needed during the growing season to maintain winter wheat crop. Spring cereal acres will be decreased. Warm conditions during the past 10 days had lead to some growers actually doing some field work.

Asotin/Garfield: Temperatures during January were well above normal with record highs on several days. Precipitation had been below normal bringing serious drought conditions to the area. Snow pack in the mountains was at record lows causing concern for water availability this spring and summer. Some farmers actually did some field work the later part of the month, even in the higher elevations of both counties. This was unheard of for January. Above normal precipitation will be needed in the upcoming months for normal crop and pasture development.

Lincoln: Snowfall received in January was beneficial in terms of providing soil moisture and as an insulating crop cover, but more precipitation is needed in the days ahead because serious dry conditions prevail at this time. Winter wheat looked good in most places as a result of generally mild winter temperatures. Spring calving had begun for some livestock producers.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Soil moisture was very short and above average precipitation is needed to maintain the winter wheat crop. Spring cereal planting will be reduced because of a lack of moisture. Unseasonably warm conditions had also been present during the past two weeks.

Spokane/Pend Oreille: Lack of moisture and snow this winter had everyone very concerned. The cold weather was short lived and not expected to have done any major damage. If weather conditions continue the way they have been this last few weeks, fields will be ready for field work. However, farmers won't be ready for farming. Thus, far it has been a good winter for livestock operations. The fall seeded crops looked pretty good at this time.

Stevens: Temperatures during the beginning of January were below zero for several days. Snow cover provided protection for the winter wheat crop. Toward the end of the month, the area experienced the normal winter thaw with temperatures in the forties. Snow surveys indicated that the snow pack in this corner of the state was currently close to average.

Whitman: Weather conditions for January were considerably warmer and dryer than normal. Crop conditions continued to look good but concern was mounting over the warm, dry pattern that dominated the county since December.

Monthly Weather Statistics
Saturday, January 1 to Monday, January 31, 2005

Station	Air							Precipitation		HDD TOT	HDD DFN	Days of 32 Cold	Days of 28 Cold
	Temperature							DFN	DAYS				
	:HI	:LO	:AVG	:DFN	:TOTAL	: DFN	: DAYS						
WEST	:												
Bellingham	:63	13	39	2	4.54	-0.17	13	803	-48	17	14		
Everett	:63	24	42	3	1.48	-3.01	17	710	-94	11	7		
Hoquiam	:59	26	44	2	7.78	-1.94	21	656	-49	8	4		
Kelso	:61	18	42	4	3.21	-3.50	15	704	-104	8	7		
Olympia	:64	17	41	4	5.35	-2.66	18	732	-105	11	8		
Sea-Tac	:62	23	42	3	3.95	-1.43	18	695	-77	11	7		
Shelton	:61	19	41	2	9.32	-1.07	21	734	-53	11	8		
Tacoma	:64	18	42	3	4.24	-1.55	16	717	-78	12	7		
Vancouver	:66	21	42	5	2.39	-3.66	16	704	-131	7	5		
CENTRAL	:												
Ellensburg	:55	1	29	4	0.63	-0.62	11	1,110	-108	24	18		
Omak AP	:46	-1	25	3	1.10	-0.35	9	1,231	-91	25	20		
Stampede Pass	:58	7	31	9	9.38	-4.31	19	1,032	-241	19	17		
Wenatchee	:51	7	28	1	1.05	-0.08	10	1,150	-26	20	18		
Yakima AP	:57	4	30	1	0.73	-0.48	16	1,064	-32	25	18		
NORTHEAST	:												
Colville	:48	-12	27	3	2.11	-0.27	13	1,170	-78	25	19		
Deer Park	:50	-8	28	3	1.85	-0.05	14	1,147	-78	25	22		
Republic	:45	-18	22	1	0.97	-0.48	10	1,312	-18	29	20		
Spokane AP	:48	-6	28	2	1.16	-0.82	13	1,127	-51	22	20		
EAST CENTRAL	:												
Ephrata	:51	4	27	0	0.45	-0.35	9	1,177	2	23	21		
Moses Lake	:52	0	27	-1	0.71	-0.09	9	1,180	5	25	21		
Quincy	:54	5	28	2	0.62	-0.22	7	1,131	-50	26	19		
Ritzville	:56	1	29	3	1.08	-0.09	9	1,103	-58	24	19		
SOUTHEAST	:												
Hanford	:50	10	31	-3	0.51	-0.27	5	1,052	66	22	17		
Pasco	:59	10	32	-1	0.59	-0.44	7	1,011	21	24	17		
Pullman	:56	7	34	6	0.47	-2.26	5	964	-164	18	16		
Walla Walla Rgn	:69	12	34	1	0.33	-1.96	6	945	-14	20	16		
Whitman Miss.	:68	12	33	-1	0.66	-0.93	11	984	-3	22	18		
ID PANHANDLE	:												
Coeur D'A' AP	:52	1	30	-1	0.58	-2.89	6	1,085	-6	23	19		
Lewiston	:60	19	38	5	0.32	-0.96	8	838	-135	18	9		

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. HDD = Heating Degree Days (Base 65).
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